

SRH Section Poster Session: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Abstract

Racial Differences in the Association between Religiosity in Adolescence and Sexual Risk Behavior in Young Adulthood

Maureen Muchimba, DrPH

Saginaw Valley State University, University City, MI

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Objective: This longitudinal investigation assessed racial differences in the relationship between religiosity in adolescence and sexual risk behavior in young adulthood. **Methods:** This study drew data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, and included African American, Hispanic and White participants (n=4610). A religiosity score was created using four items ($\alpha=0.70$). Logistic regression was used to assess the relationship between religiosity in adolescence (ages 11-18) and the following outcomes in young adulthood (ages 18-25): sexual debut before age 15, multiple sexual partners (≥ 2 partners in the previous 12 months), and a high number of lifetime sexual partners (≥ 4 for females, ≥ 6 for males). Pertinent variables were controlled for. **Results:** Among African Americans, Hispanics and Whites, 90.4%, 90.3% and 85.8, respectively, reported practicing a religion. Religion was reported to be very important by 65.5% of African Americans, 45.3% of Hispanics and 37.8% of Whites. Among African Americans and Hispanics, religiosity was not associated with any of the sexual risk behaviors. Among Whites, higher religiosity scores were associated with less likelihood of early sexual debut (OR, 0.76; 95% CI, 0.66-0.88), and of a high number of lifetime sexual partners (OR, 0.76; 95% CI, 0.67-0.87). **Conclusion:** Although Americans and Hispanics reported that religion was very important, it was not protective against sexual risk behaviors in these racial groups. Programs aimed at preventing sexually transmitted diseases and HIV must consider other variables that might explain this paradox, which highlights the complex relationship between religiosity and sexual behavior.

Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs

Abstract

Exploring the social and cultural influences on young men's perceptions of masculinity, gender attitudes, and sexual risk behaviors

Maria Catrina Jaime, PhD, MPH, CPH¹, Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD², Sarah Elizabeth Morrow, MA³, Patricia Murungi Bamwine, PhD, MA, MSW⁴, Jessica G. Burke, PhD⁵, Mary E. Hawk, DrPH⁵, Steve M. Albert, PhD⁵ and Heather L. McCauley, ScD, MS⁶

(1)University of California, Davis, Sacramento, CA, (2)UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, (3)Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, (4)University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, (5)University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, PA, (6)Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Background: Youth involved in the juvenile justice system (JJS) face many social disadvantages that impact their sexual health. Research supports that masculinity and gender attitudes may play an important role in these associations, yet there is limited understanding of whether and how sociocultural factors influence young men's masculinity, gender attitudes, and sexual behavior. The purpose of this study was to elucidate

the ways in which young men envision their masculinity, how their attitudes about gender may influence their behaviors, and to explore the differences between juvenile justice-involved youth compared to youth not involved. Methods: Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with young men who had been involved (n=11) and not involved (n=21) in the JJS. A purposive convenience sample was recruited between January 2017 to May 2017 from a RCT in Pennsylvania. Participants completed a questionnaire and interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed. Two coders conducted a thematic analysis using NVivo. Key codes included racial and gender stereotypes, media, and violence as well as youth perceptions of masculinity and their sexual behaviors. Results: Participants involved in the JJS described masculinity to be more influenced by race and social media compared to participants not involved, who reported broader influences from media and familial male role models on masculinity. Juvenile justice-involved youth's narratives reflected less gender equitable attitudes and reported having more peers who were hyper-masculine and hyper-sexual. Conclusion: Understanding how these sociocultural factors and social networks impact juvenile justice-involved youth may inform social campaigns, training and/or sexual health programs related to the JJS.

Administer health education strategies, interventions and programs Advocacy for health and health education Public health or related public policy Public health or related research Social and behavioral sciences

Abstract

Impact of Masculinity on Communication with Sex Partners and other Sexual Health Outcomes

Mattie Bodden, Heather Batson, MA, Archana Bodas LaPollo, MPH, Nana Nimako, BA and Alex Peters
Public Health Management Corporation, Philadelphia, PA

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Background: Unplanned pregnancy remains a significant public health issue in the US, disproportionately affecting Black Americans. Most teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) programs target young women, overlooking the role young men play in pregnancies. Programs that target young men often fail to explore connections between masculinity beliefs, sexual health knowledge, sexual communication, and protective sexual health behaviors. Methods: The Brotherspeak study is a cluster RCT testing effectiveness of a theater-based group-level TPP intervention for young black men ages 15-22 in non-school settings in Philadelphia. Analyses were conducted with 349 sexually active young men. Logistic regression was used to predict sexual communication comfort, sexual behavior, and protective practices at baseline. Results: Preliminary analyses indicate that participants with rigid masculinity beliefs had lower knowledge scores than those reporting milder masculinity ideals. These factors impact comfort with sexual communication. Controlling for age and sex education experience, participants with rigid masculinity beliefs have a 37% lower chance of being comfortable communicating with their partner about sex, than men with less rigid beliefs (OR=.63, $p<.05$). Final analyses examining the impact of knowledge, masculinity beliefs, and other relevant factors on communication and other sexual behavior and protective factors will be presented. Conclusion: Rigid masculinity beliefs are associated with less comfort in sexual communication, which in turn is crucial to negotiation about sexual activity, fertility planning, and other reproductive health issues. Masculinity beliefs may also have direct effects on sexual and protective behavior, presenting important implications for development of sexual education programs.

Administer health education strategies, interventions and programs Assessment of individual and community needs for health education Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs Social and behavioral sciences

Abstract

Recruiting youth? Facebook can help: Using social media to recruit participants to sexual health research studies

Genevieve Martinez, PhD, Milagros Garrido, MA and Nicholas Suffrunko, BA
Healthy Teen Network, Baltimore, MD

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter offer the opportunity to reach large numbers of youth quickly and efficiently. However, researchers and program managers often fail at harnessing the power of these platforms to recruit participants to their studies or programs. They often fall back to using outdated recruitment methods or highly ineffective and expensive banner ads. We conducted two randomized-controlled trials for which we recruited 2,500 women ages 14-20 to blindly test a sex education app. We developed and tested multiple recruitment ad messages, formats, and platforms to strike the right balance between cost, reach, and number of eligible individuals who completed the screener. We learned that Instagram is a preferred platform that rendered the highest number of eligible participants for the lowest cost, while Twitter resulted in the highest reach and number of clicks, but had the lowest rate of eligible participants. We used various formats, such as still images and animations, and found that younger audiences responded very well to animated text ads, while the same ad was ineffective for older adolescents. This presentation will discuss lessons learned on how to select the right social media platform, how to develop messages that resonate with youth, and how to monitor campaigns to assess its effectiveness. We will share concrete examples of our recruitment materials, the effective and ineffective ones, and will discuss overall cost of recruitment per enrolled participant for each individual campaign.

Public health or related research Social and behavioral sciences

Abstract

Gender perspectives on teens' social norms regarding adolescent pregnancy: A qualitative study of online social network users

Kathryn Barker

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Context: U.S. social concern with teen pregnancy dates to the 1970s. Today's popular and professional literature continues to echo this concern despite all-time low rates of teen pregnancy in the U.S. Given declines in rates of pregnancy in their own age cohort, it is unclear how or whether contemporary American male and female teens reproduce, reinterpret, and experience social norms against teen pregnancy. **Methods:** Online ethnographic methods are utilized to analyze peer-to-peer exchanges surrounding teen pregnancy from a popular online social media site. **Results:** Ninety percent of users indicated that desiring a baby in the teen years is wrong and unacceptable. Qualitative findings indicate online users utilize several sub-norms to provide rationales against teen pregnancy, ranging from: a general pathologization of teen pregnancy, pragmatic socio-economic concerns, to views that adolescence is a special developmental period to be experienced unburdened by responsibilities associated with having a baby. Female users also shared stories of bullying, social isolation, and fear after a rumored or actual pregnancy. **Conclusion:** American adolescents reproduce the social norm of teen pregnancy as a social problem. Norms against teen pregnancy are also linked to age and gender norms, as well as norms surrounding female sexuality. Female adolescents who transgress these norms experience shame and stigma. This requires a thoughtful reconsideration by policy-makers and program implementers in the messaging and implementation of teen pregnancy prevention policies, campaigns, and programs.

Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs Program planning Public health or related public policy Social and behavioral sciences

Abstract

Teen Pregnancy and Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Study of Risk and Protective Factors

Diane McNaughton, PhD, PHNA-BC¹, Heide Cygan, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC², Louis Fogg, PhD², Virginia Reising, MSN, PHNA-BC², Lisa Masinter, MD, MPH, MS³, Sarah Parchem, MPH³, Jamie Tully, MPH, MS⁴ and Ernestina Perez, MPH⁴

(1)Rush University College of Nursing, Wheaton, IL, (2)Rush University College of Nursing, Chicago, IL, (3)Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago, IL, (4)Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are traumatic events known to influence poor health outcomes and higher teen pregnancy rates. However, current ACE research is limited by: 1) primarily being conducted with white adults, and 2) reliance on memory to report past events. Therefore, limiting applicability to under-represented minority adolescent populations. The purpose of this research is to describe the relationship between ACEs and youth sexual risk behaviors/pregnancy for ethnic/racial minority youth in Chicago and to examine protective factors mediating the relationship between these variables. This study is a secondary analysis of data from the Chicago 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 1,883 ethnically/racially diverse (Hispanic: 48%; African American: 33.8%) adolescents (9th – 12th grade). The study sample was selected by the CDC, based on school and class level and included students from 38 regular public schools. CPS obtained weighted data in 2017, thus results are representative of health behaviors/outcomes of all CPS high school students. Students completed a pencil and paper, anonymous, 99-item questionnaire in spring of 2017. Analysis is in progress and will include use of structural equation modelling to estimate the effects of demographic and ACE variables on reported sexual risk behaviors/pregnancy and protective factors that mediate these relationships. Findings from this study will help direct school based preventive interventions to reduce ACEs and strengthen protective factors for sexual risk behavior/pregnancy in a diverse population of young people before they enter adulthood.

Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs Public health or related nursing Public health or related research

Abstract

Reaching Parents through Promotoras de salud to Address Adolescent Sexual Health

Katherine Suellentrop, MPH¹, Becky Griesse, MPH, CHES² and **Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC³**

(1)Power to Decide, Washington, DC, (2)Power to Decide, the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy, Washington, DC, (3)Adolescent AIDS Program, Children's Hospital at Montefiore, Bronx, NY

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Despite historic declines in teen pregnancy, nearly one in three Latinas will get pregnant at least once by the age of 20. As such, identifying evidence-based interventions that are resonant and relevant for Latino adolescents and their families is a public health priority. We adapted the evidence-based program Families Talking Together (FTT) to be delivered through a promotoras de salud network in South Texas. FTT was originally developed specifically for Latino families and involves working with parents to address early sexual activity. Specifically, FTT equips parents of 10-14 years old to better communicate with their child about delaying sex, healthy relationships, and condom use. We will present lessons learned from implementing this evidence-based intervention in a new setting and exploring potential ways to scale up effective interventions in communities with greatest need through the use of promotores de salud.

Diversity and culture Implementation of health education strategies, interventions and programs Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs Program planning

Abstract

Parent-Adolescent Safer Sex Communication: Why Adolescent Preferences Matter

Kaitlin Piper, MPH¹, Danielle Lambert, MPH, CHES¹, Erin Johnson, MPH², Tyler Fuller, MPHc, MTSc¹ and Palmer Hipp, MPHc¹

(1)Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA, (2)American Institutes for Research, Washington DC, DC

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Adolescents whose parents talk to them about sex are more likely to practice healthier sexual behaviors. Evidence suggests that adolescents prefer receiving safer sex communication from a parent of the same gender, but it is unknown if these preferences translate into improved sexual health outcomes. To address this gap, this study investigates the relationship between receiving safer sex communication from one's preferred parent and sexual health outcomes. The sample was drawn from an online survey that was disseminated through academic institutions, community venues, and social media sites. Responses from 1,011 participants were collected, of which 494 (48.9%) received parent-adolescent sex communication. Based on bivariate analyses, females who received communication from their preferred parent initiated sex, on average, one year later than females who received communication from a non-preferred parent ($p=0.03$). Females were also less likely to have an STD if they received communication from their preferred parent ($p=0.01$). Although preferred parent communication was protective among females, preferred parent communication was associated with lower levels of birth control use among males ($p=0.02$). Furthermore, compared to respondents who received communication from their mother, respondents who received communication from their father used condoms more consistently ($p=0.02$), but were less likely to use birth control pills ($p=0.04$). These data suggest that receiving communication from a preferred parent promotes healthier sexual behaviors among females. However, only receiving communication from one's father may be a barrier to birth control use. These results illustrate the importance of considering adolescent preferences in developing parent-adolescent communication interventions.

Public health or related research Social and behavioral sciences

Abstract

When problems arise: Aspects of parent-child communication that contribute to positive sexual communication

Robin Stevens, PhD, MPH¹, Julie A. Cederbaum, PhD, MSW, MPH², Dalmacio Flores, PhD¹ and Stacia Matthews, PhD³

(1)University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA, (2)University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, (3)Rutgers University, Camden, NJ

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo (Nov. 10 - Nov. 14)

Background: Adolescence is a critical period; behaviors initiated at this stage have long-term implications for health in subsequent life stages. During adolescence, parents are the most proximal influence on children. Yet when challenges or problems related to sex arise, do adolescents view their parents as sources of help and support? This work examines the relationship between parent-child sex communication and adolescents' view of parents as helpful/punishing. Methods: Data for this study were drawn from a larger survey of parents and their adolescent child living in rural and suburban communities across four counties in southern New Jersey. Data was collected from 54 rural and suburban dyads ($N=108$) on the influence of parent-child sexual risk communication on youths' expectations of sex behavior support or punishment. OLS regression models indicated significant differences. Results: Parents reported moderate levels of communication about sex, with discussions of sexual behavior being the most common, following by HIV/STD risk and pregnancy. Youth who reported prior sexual activity had low expectations of punishment for future sexual activity ($p<0.014$). The more parents talk about HIV/STDs and limit punishment as the perceived response to sexual activity, the more likely adolescents were to seek support and help from their parents ($p<0.034$). Conclusions:

Sexual risk communication with youth has a positive influence on viewing the parent-child relationship as protective in nature. Providing parents with sex communication knowledge and skills could contribute to sexual risk reductions behaviors in youth.

Public health or related education Public health or related research Social and behavioral sciences

